Hor the Children.

SIX LITTLE MAIDENS.

I'll tell you a story, I'll sing you a song. It's not very short and it's not very long, Of six little maidens; in white they were dressed

Invited for four-well, now, let me see: Waiting was dull, so they got there at three There was little Miss Katte and Nellie and Sue And little Miss Bessie and Polly and Prue.

It might have been June, if it hadn't been May, The first of the month, and a beautiful day; They kissed when they met, as the ladies all do— Kate, Susie, and Nell; Bess, Polly, and Prus.

They danced and they skipped and they sang and they And they formed pretty groups in the sun and the shade; And I said, when they asked me of which I was fond.
"Brunettes are the dearest, and so are the blende."

And that night, as I bade them adien at the gate,

And that night, as I bade them adien at the same.

Boss, Polly, and Prue, and Sue, Neille, and Kate.

How I wished that "good-bye!" could have been "how-d'y'-do!"

And I said; "Come at three!" so as to get them At two -R. W. Lowrie, in St. Nicholas for Angust.

Daisy Green in the Attic.

"Where is Daisy?" asked Mrs. Green, one forenoon, of the woman who was do-ing her ironing. Mrs. Green had been out to visit a sick lady and had left Daisy at home, not without some apprehension lest she might get into mischief or trouble, although Daisy was not quite so mischievous

as formerly. "Up in the attic, I guess, mum," was

the woman's reply.

So Mrs. Green went up stairs and paused at the foot of the attic stairway. "Daisy has company, it seems," thought Mrs. Green, as she heard the sound of voices. Daisy often took her playmates to the attic, where they could romp as much as they pleased. As Mrs. Green was about to turn away, she heard Daisy say, "Now, children, let's play church," so she sat down on the stars that she might hear the play.

might hear the play.
"I'll be the choir," continued Daisy, "and Lizzie and Maggie and Bell and Jimmie may be the people, and Benjie may be the minister because he is gooder than the rest of us; but you must skip the prayers, Benjie, for it's wicked to

pray when we ain't in solemn earnest."

The choir then executed a solo with remarkable trills and shakes and quavers in a childist. soprano. Then a voice which Mrs. Green recognized as that of Benjie, a little boy who lived in the next house, commenced to read as follows:

"' And Isaiah said unto the people, Ye have sinned and done very wickedest things and must sit down in the ashes until ye have repented and made up your minds not to do bad things any more. And the people answered Isaiah and said, Verily, we have tried hard to be good, but you have been harsh with us, and we are tolerably discouraged. But Isaiah said unto them, You must keep on trying, for unless you repent and be good you will all be lost, lost, lost, so that you can never be found any more.' Here endeth the

Then the choir executed another solo! Then Benjie's voice resumed, "I will now read the notices:

"' We shall have the usual prayer meetings, and all the folks that come must

pray; nobody must be lazy about it.'
There will be a missionary meeting at my house on Wednesday. All folks who like to work for other folks better than for themselves will please come; to make it more interesting I will tell stories about n; issionaries who have been eaten up for candy balls by the heathen; and when you get tired of that, we can have a sewing society and talk about folks

"Oh, dear!" moaned Mrs. Green on the stairs, "where did he get that idea? | before, I am glad Daisy didn't say that."

"As soon as the choir stops giggling and whispering I will preach the sermon," resumed Berjie. "Most ministers don't wait for that, but I think they ought to. The audience is asked to keep awake; if any one sleeps out loud, the sexton will please wake 'em up. My text is about Adam and Eve. Adam was the first man, and he was made of dirt; but Eve was made of one of Adam's bones. She couldn't have been very good-looking without any flesh. I'm glad my mother isn't made of bones. The world was new and clean then, and Adam and his wife lived in a beautiful garden where there were all kinds of animals; there were lions that didn't roar and scare folks, and tigers that never ate folks up, and dogs that didn't bite, and cats that didn't scratch, and there were lots of flowers that never wilted or dried up, and lots of fruit, and it was never wormy, or rotten, or sour; and they could eat all they wanted without having the stomach-ache. But there was one tree in the middle of the garden that God told them not to touch, but they didn't mind him, for a great hateful ser pent made Eve eat an apple from that tree, and she liked it so well that she teased Adam to eat some too, and then God drove them out of the beautiful garden into the wilderness and made them work for their living; and then the lions began to roar, and tigers began to eat folks up, and dogs began to bite, and cats began to scratch, and roses had thorns to hurt folks, and flowers wilted, and apples and pears got wormy and rotten, and grapes got sour, and watermelon got to giving folks colic, and everything went wrong. And that's the way it will be with you, brethren, if you eat things that you've been told not too. Meeting's done

Then there was a rush and stampede as of a rather disorderly audience passing

Mrs. Green on the stairs was convulsed with silent laughter. It is safe to say that she had enjoyed the play as well as the children had.

"Now let's play school," said Daisy, "I will be teacher, and we will have a school where scholars will have real good times." "I want to be teacher," said another

"Now, L'zzie, that isn't kind," answered Daisy; "you may be teacher next

time, if you want too." That must be Lizzie Fowler," thought

Mrs. Green, "as nearly as I can judge there are five children up there besides

Daisy."
"I don't want to play school; I'd rather play tag," said another voice.
"Now, Belle, I am ashamed of you," said Daisy; tag is such a rude play, and school is more cultivating!"

"The scholars may all take their seats," continued Daisy who had never yet seen the inside of a schoolroom. "I want you all to read about things that you know about. Jimmie, you may begin; you may read about cats.'

A boyish voice read as follows: "A cat sits on the fence and looks about her. Cats like to be on the fence as well as boys do. When cats get mad the hair stands up on their back. Cats are smarter than boys, for they can climb trees without tearing their clothes."

"Benjie may read about horses because

his father keeps so many of them," said this very original teacher. And Benjie's

voice read : "Horses have four legs and run twice as fast as boys who have only two legs. Sometimes they run away and spill folks out and kill them, but nobody blames the horse; if boys killed folks, they would be

"Lizzie, you may read about dolls,"

said Daisy.
" Dolls are little folks that are made for children to play with. Some are made of wax, and some of China and other things, and they are all bignesses, but their inside is most always sawdust, and if they get broke the sawdust will run out of them, and leave them all holler

"Belle may read about—about—coal," said Daisy, whose list of subjects seemed nearly exhausted.

"Coal is dirty, black stuff, that people build fires with. Mamma says it is dug out of the ground; but I digged and digged one day, and made a dreadful deep hole, but there wasn't any coal there."

"Now you may all have some lunch," said the teacher, "and visit with each other while you eat it. You can have mince pie and fruit cake, and eat as much

as you please, for such things don't hurt children in this kind of school." "Teacher!" cried Maggie, "Jimmie snatched part of my cake, and won't give it back; he is just as mean as he can be
—sassy thing!"
"Teacher!" said Belle, "Lizzie Fowler

is making up faces at me and pinching me, and I wish she wouldn't go to school

here any more—plague take her!"
"Oh dear!" thought the little woman on
the stairs, "I can't have Daisy play with children who talk like that."

children who talk like that."

"Teacher!" said Benjie, "the mince
pie is all gone, and I haven't had enough."

"Never mind," said Daisy, "it is time
to look at pictures now. Here is a picture-book for Jimmie, and some Wide
Awakes for Belle, and a box of chromos for Maggie, and some stereoscopic views for Lizzie, and when you have all looked at them, you can change about till every-body has seen them all."

"It is a pity that some of our school committees could not sit on our attic stairs awhile; they might get some use-ful ideas," thought Mrs. Green. "Teacher!" called Jimmie, "what is

this picture about ?" "That is the big Towel of London," answered Daisy. "Two little princes was smothered in it once. Their wicked uncle did it. It looks more like a big house than a towel, I think."

"Teacher, please tell me about this," said Lizzie's voice.

"That," answered the teacher, "is the Looker-on. He's going to be killed by those horrid snakes, and those are his little boys, and the snakes will kill them,

Mrs. Green nearly betrayed her presence on the stairs by an audible laugh at Daisy's new name for the Laocoon! "Teacher, who's this?" called Benjie's

"That is George Washington," replied Daisy. "He was the father of his country, and that woman beside him is Martha Washington, and I s'pose she was the mother of his country. They were very nice people, I expect; they look quite styl-ish, I think."

"Oh dear! " sighed Mrs. Green.

"The girls may have a good long recess," announced Daisy.

Then followed a rush and a scramble, and then games were proposed; they played tag, and then blind-man's-buff, and such dainty screams of mirth, and such granting and such calcanting. such running, and such exclamations when one was caught, or another escaped, were never heard in Mrs. Green's attic

"How can so few children make so much noise?" thought Mrs. Green. "Ding, dong! ding, dong!" called Daisy, and girls went in and boys

came out. The boys played football, and there was such a running, and jumping, and pounding, and yelling, as defies descrip-

"I should think there were fifty of them," thought Mrs. Green, clapping her hands over her ears, as an empty butter firkin went clattering over the floor, doing duty as football.

Then the study door below was opened and Mr. Green appeared on the threshhold.
"Emily," he called, "who is making such an outrageous racket up there? A fellow can't write with the house coming

down about his ears!" "I am going up to put a stop to it," replied Mrs. Green, running up the attic stairs; but the "ding, dong," had sounded, the tumult subsided, and as Mrs. Green reached the playroom, Daisy sat quietly on a packing box, with a large Saratoga trunk before her, evidently doing duty as desk; no one else was in sight.

"Where are all those children?" demanded Mrs. Green.
"What children, mamma?" asked

Daisy, innocently.
"Why, those children who have been playing up here with you, and making such a terrible noise," said Mrs. Green, staring about the empty room in utter be wilderment.

"There haven't been any children here but my imaginary ones," replied Daisy.
But her mother continued to stare incredulously about the room, and even

looked suspiciously at the chimney as if possible for any one to have hidden it. "Did you play church and keep school with all those different voices yourself?"

she asked. "Why, yes, mamma; of course, when I was a whole school, I couldn't talk like Daisy Green all the time."

"But how could you make so much noise?" asked her mother, still bewil-

"Oh! that's easy enough," said Daisy. "Shall I show you how?" and she jumped from her perch with a genuine boyish yell, and ran for the butter firkin, otherwise football.

" No! no!" exclaimed her mother, putting her hands over her ears, with a cry of comic terror, "I came up on purpose to stop the noise, for it disturbs your papa very much. You had better come down now, and we will go out for a walk

and then papa can have a quiet time."

But as they left the attic, Mrs. Green could not rid herself of the feeling that there must be several children hidden away there whom she ought to send home before going out herself!—Golden Rule.

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